

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAIA 00248 101714Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0201

INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAIA 0248

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINT, PINR, AO, CV

SUBJECT: CAPEVERDEAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN LUANDA

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PEREIRA EXPECTS TO REPLACE PRESENT CAPE VERDE REP IN LUANDA (JOAQUIM PEDRO SILVA FORMERLY HEADOF CAPE VERDE'S ARMED FORCES) WITH PRESENT MINISTER OF JUSTICE DAVID HOPPFER ALMADA. PEREIRA IS NOTHAPPY WITH SILVA'PERFORMANCE INLUANDA ESPECIALLY WITH HIS LACK OF CONTACTS INGOA OUTSIDE OF MILITARY CIRCLES AND SILVA HAS ALSO ASKED TO BE ROTATED CITING DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE ANGOLAN CAPITAL. PEREIRA RECENTLY DISPATCHED HOPPFER ALMADA TO PARIS AND GENEVA AS CAPEVERDEAN OFFICIAL REP IN PREPARATION FOR HIS MOVE TO LUANDA AND WILL SEND HIM TO KHARTOUM TO REPRESENT CAPE VERDE AT OAU CONFERENCE.

2. HOPPFER ALMADA IS VERY BRIGHT AND ALERT AND HIS HIGHLY RESPECTED WITHIN GOVERNMENT FOR HIS ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS. HE IS CLOSE TO PEREIRA AND PRIME MINISTER PEDRO PIRES AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MODERATE. HE HAS ALSO MADE A HABIT
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PAGE 02 PRAIA 00248 101714Z

OF MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH A BROAD RANGE OF CAPEVERDEAN SOCIETY AND IS THE ONLY CAPEVERDEAN MINISTER FREQUENTLY SEEN IN PUBLIC. ALMADA HAS ALSO BEEN FRIENDLY WITH CHARGE. TO REPLACE ALMADA IN JUSTICE MINISTRY PEREIRA HOPES TO CONVINCE CORSINO FORTES, NOW AMBASSADOR IN LISBON, TO RETURN TO THE ISLANDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORTES IS RESISTING THE MOVE AS HIS WIFE DOES NOT WANT TO RETURN TO

CAPE VERDE.

3. WHILE ALMADA REPORTELY WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN IN PRAIA NEAR HIS PARENTS, PEREIRA HAS MADE A PERSONAL PLEA FOR HIM TO TAKE UP THE NEW POST, CITING NEED TO ESTABLISH BETTER CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE NETO GOVERNMENT. PEREIRA ALSO TOLD ALMADA THAT HE IS CONCERNED WITH HIS CLOSE FRIEND AGOSTINHO NETO'S DRIFT TOWARDS IRREVERSIBLE ALIGNMENT WITH NON-AFRICAN STATES.

4. COMMENT: ALMADA IS IN HIS MID-THIRTIES, IS A LAWYER BY TRAINING (COIMBRA UNIVERSITY IN PORTUGAL) AND IS A TRULY SELF-MADE MAN, HAVING BEEN RAISED IN THE STARKLY POOR COUNTRYSIDE OF ASSOMADA IN THE BARREN HILLS OF SANTIAGO ISLAND AND THEN HAVING WON A SCHOLARSHIP FIRST TO THE LYCEE IN MINDELO AND THEN TO COIMBRA.
MARKS

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